

Courier

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County security officers meet the challenge - and you

Do you want a challenging job? How about one that demands good people skills with first responder

emergency skills and, often, adapting to a new culture with secondary language skills? Security officers that guard the

county government facilities measure up to these challenges and more.

"Security has always been a county priority but even more so since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11," said **Cindy Rubin**, county security manager. To provide security for many county government facilities, the county relies on a private contractor, MVM Inc. There are 102 security officers that cover 26



Security guard Syed Abidi helps provide 24-hour security at the Government Center, Pennino and Herrity buildings.

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Parking plans before and during *Celebrate Fairfax!*

Once again the Government Center complex will host *Celebrate Fairfax!* on June 10-12, an event bringing together and celebrating Fairfax County, its employees, its communities and its resources. As workers set up the festival, your patience is greatly appreciated, especially with parking.

Employees can expect limited parking availability during the week of June 6 as

the festival sets up. Visitor parking will remain in front of the Government Center. Employees are requested to respect these areas and leave them available for visitors coming to conduct business in the Government Center.

To relieve the tight parking situation, employees are encouraged to carpool this week. If you have an assigned space in the

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locations throughout the county, ranging from the familiar Government Center to selected Park & Ride lots and even county landfills. "This is a big county and often the security requirements are for 24-hour

Faustin Zirarusha

Faustin Zirarusha has been a security officer for more than four years. He, his wife and five children are originally from Congo where he received his university degree and became a high school teacher.

A friendly person who smiles effortlessly, Zirarusha said that the best part of his job is the interaction with people. "I enjoy helping people with their

questions. We have many different people at the South County Center, from teenagers to senior citizens. We have a lot of things to do with them but that makes it interesting," he said.

coverage," pointed out **Jim Poppino**, MVM Inc. manager.

Many of the officers with the county contract are foreign born. The requirements for becoming a security officer include passing a criminal background check and drug screening test, passing a polygraph test, and completing a test showing competency to read, write and speak English. "We have been very pleased with the service of the security officers," said Rubin.

In addition to these requirements, each security officer must complete 40 hours of basic training, 16 hours of on-site training and an additional 40 hours training for those authorized to carry weapons (approximately 20 percent of the force).

While many of us see the security officers at lobby desks or workstations, they have a broad range of responsibilities. "The officers must be prepared to

respond to emergencies, investigate situations and then correctly prepare incident reports," said Rubin, noting that the duties of the officers never supersede the need for Police and Fire & Rescue first responders.

Other duties for which the security officers are trained include screening bags and boxes that people bring to government facilities, monitoring parking lots, verifying employees and opening offices, and administering emergency CPR (Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation) and AED (Automatic External Defibrillator). "The tasks of verifying county employees and letting them into their offices, while seemingly a small task, becomes very important when an employee who has forgotten his/her security access card needs office entry quickly. It can become a public relations issue and the security officers handle it well," said Rubin.

According to Poppino, some locations and facilities are more stressful than others. Security officers at the Judicial Center, for example, work with Sheriff's deputies to ensure all persons are screened before entering the courts. "This can cause some anxious moments when dealing with an

impatient person who may be late for a court appointment," he said.

Rubin cited the unique job demands of the South County Center officers, pointing out that visitors to that facility often range from teenagers attending the teen center there to a

Aamar Raza, his wife, young son and daughter, are from Pakistan where he had helped his father run their business. He has been a MVM security officer for half of the seven years he has been in the United States. As one of the guards trained to carry a weapon, Raza worked for more than two years at the Fairfax County Courthouse before coming to the Government Center complex.

Raza speaks excellent English, saying that in Pakistan children begin studying English in kindergarten. However, he pointed out the difference between "British" English and "American" English. "I always listen to the radio, read newspapers and watch television to improve my American English," he said.

**Aamar Raza**

variety of multicultural people seeking social

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**Get more information
on county security
on the Infoweb at
[http://infoweb/fmd/
security](http://infoweb/fmd/security)**

Parking, from page 1

garage and will be on vacation, please allow a co-worker to use it. Monday through Thursday, there will be limited parking available in some front lots except where coned off or tents are set up. On Friday, the only available parking in the front lots at the Government Center will be reserved for visitors. Employees may use the garages at the Pennino or Herrity buildings or the alternate parking lot on the northwest corner of Monument Drive and Government Center Parkway across from Fairfax Corner.

Shuttle Bus Service

Shuttle bus service, courtesy of Fastran and the Department of Community and Recreation Services, will be offered during the week. Overflow employee parking will be in the alternate parking lot on the northwest corner of Monument Drive across from Fairfax Corner. Shuttle bus service will run between the three government facilities on:

Thurs., June 9: 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Fri., June 10: 7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

On Thursday, continuous service (about every 15-20 minutes) will be provided during the hours listed above. The shuttle bus will stop at the front entrances of the Herrity and Pennino buildings, at the bus stop near the front entrance of the Government Center, and at the alternate parking lot on Monument Drive. (NOTE: County employees should not park in the customer lots in Fairfax Corner. The shuttle bus will stop for passengers only at the approved parking area.)

On Friday, continuous service (about every 15-20 minutes) will only stop at the front entrance of the Herrity Building (the front of the Pennino will be blocked off for Police Command Operations), at the loading dock of the Government Center and at the alternate lot across from Fairfax Corner.

Road and Garage Closures

At 6 p.m. Thursday, the center entrance roads to the Government Center (across from Post Forest Road at the stoplight) will be closed to vehicles until Monday morning.

At 9 a.m. Friday, the north entrance road (entrance closest to Monument Drive) will be closed until Monday morning.

On Friday, the lot in front of the Pennino Building will be closed except for Child Care Center drop off and pick up.

At 4 p.m. Friday, employee access to the Government Center P1 and P2 parking garages will end until 6 a.m. Monday. Friday morning P1 and P2 will operate as normal. Employees can stay in their parking space until the end of their regular day. However, reserved spaces of those employees who leave and return after 2 p.m. on P1 or P2 are not guaranteed as exhibitors will be moving their cars into the garages.

When leaving P1 and P2 on Friday, all employees must leave through the south entrance road (near the Fuel Island) and follow the directions of the officers on Government Center Parkway.

During the festival, Government Center Parkway will be closed to through traffic from the stoplight at Post Forest Drive to the intersection of the north entrance road.

Security

For security reasons, all offices in the Government Center complex are closed to employees and visitors from 5 p.m. Friday, June 10, to 6 a.m. Monday, June 13. Employees who must work must submit an Employee Work/Parking Request (<http://infoweb/fmd/celebratefairfax/2005/05default.htm>) through their agency security coordinator to the Building Management Office by June 1.

Contact the security office if you plan to leave a personal vehicle in any garage at the Government Center complex over the festival weekend. You must have a pass on the dash with your name on it so that the vehicle can be easily identified and won't be towed.

The Government Center will be open for Absentee Voting.

More information, forms and maps are available on the Facilities Management Department's Infoweb site at <http://infoweb/fmd/celebratefairfax/2005/05default.htm>. If you have questions, please call 703-324-2055, option #2, TTY 711. ■



Parking information, forms and maps are on the Infoweb at <http://infoweb/fmd>

County book drive emphasizes early childhood development

Fairfax County is joining Governor Warner's Early Childhood Summit by bringing attention to the importance of early childhood development, especially in the area of emerging literacy. The Office for Children and the Fairfax County Public Library are partnering in announcing a Book Drive for Early Childhood Educators for county employees. The Book Drive will run from June 6 – 10. County employees are encouraged to donate new or gently used preschool children's picture books in collection boxes at the Government Center, Pennino Building, Herrity Building and South County Human Services Building.

Collected books will be distributed to early childhood programs serving low income families to encourage emerging literacy. Research continues to support the importance reading in the early days of childhood development.

Questions about the book drive can be directed to either **Gail Bjorklund** at 703-324-8225, TTY 711 or **Cathy Noonan**, 703-324-8413, TTY 711. ■

County's newest RECenter opens at Cub Run

Ribbon cutting ceremonies occurred on Sunday, May 22, for the new Cub Run RECenter. Everyone is encouraged to visit this 65,000 square foot, \$19 million facility. This is the ninth RECenter in the Fairfax County Park Authority system and features many state-of-the-art enhancements.

The new RECenter offers the first indoor recreational leisure pool complete with two hair-raising slides, the largest fitness center in the park system, wireless connections in observation lounges, a competition swimming pool with seating for 175 plus the Poseidon Technologies anti-drowning system and designated birthday party room. Two large multi-purpose rooms will be used for classes and events. The facilities are completely ADA compliant.

A naturalist will provide programming and natural resource education in the surrounding Sully Woodlands preserve for families and summer camps as well as scout badge offerings.

Cub Run RECenter is located at 4630 Stonecroft Blvd. next to Westfield High School in Chantilly. ■

The Board of Supervisors proclaimed today, May 27, as RachelCarson Day and Pesticide Free Day in Fairfax County.



Police Chief David Rohrer speaks at the observance of National Police Week. (photo by Keith Dobuler, Police Department)

Police honor fallen comrades

A bright, sunny day belied the solemnity of a gathering in the rose garden outside the county's Public Safety Center on Monday, May 9. Police officers in dress uniforms came from their assignments across the county to honor their fellow officers who have died in the line of duty. They were joined by members of the county Board of Supervisors.

Each year, the Fairfax County Police Fallen Officers Memorial Service begins the local observance of National Police Week. This year's event honored the memories of three FCPD officers: **Karen Bassford**, who died in 1977; **Hendrick 'Sandy' Gideonse**, who died in 1998; and Captain **Tommy Bernal**, the last sworn officer killed in the line of duty in 2001.

Standing before the gleaming, black granite Fallen Officers Memorial, Chief **David M. Rohrer** told the families of all three fallen officers, "I believe we best honor these men and women by rededicating ourselves to the values of law enforcement and policing. That is what they would want us to do." ■

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or mental health services. Rubin also pointed out that the rate of turnover among security officers often is higher here as other firms may pay more. "We lay a lot of responsibilities and expectations on these people," said Rubin.

How do the security officers that provide service to the county measure up? "I'm very proud of our people," said Poppino. "They are dedicated to providing the best service they can." Rubin, too, echoed the compliment for the county security team, saying, "They are the nicest people who are eager to help. County employees should take a moment to get to know the officers in their facility. You might find out something surprising about their capabilities and backgrounds." ■

Dawn Bentley, assistant project manager for public safety, working at the Massey Building, claims to have the best job in Fairfax County. "I absolutely love my work," she said, pointing out that it is the people she works with that make her job worthwhile. "These are some of the most wonderful people anyone can work with," she said, "We are all like family who trust and depend on each other." Bentley has a real family consisting of husband, two daughters and one son. Bentley said the biggest challenge the security officers often face is impatient people. "Most people coming through the security check points are understanding but there are those who don't take the time to realize we're here to protect them."



Dawn Bentley

DTA emphasizes good public service with local outreach project

What better way to recognize the public service of its employees than with a project that supports the community. The Department of Tax Administration Networking Team sponsored a food drive during Public Service Recognition Week, May 2–6, raising cash donations of \$100 and collecting 971 pounds of food that went to a local community food bank known as FISH (For Immediate, Sympathetic Help).

Providing food and help to needy families, FISH is organized and run completely by volunteers and supported by donations. Calvary Hill Baptist Church, as a partner member of FISH, operates the food pantry Tuesday and Thursday mornings. FISH serves more than 5,000 Fairfax County residents each year and is one of the walk-in food banks in the county. Food for the pantry is provided primarily through direct donations by churches and organizations. The donated food helps to restock the pantry while DTA's contribution of \$100 will be used to purchase additional bulk items, such as cereal, flour,

sugar and juice – items that are always in short supply.

"I can think of no better way to celebrate public service week than to help the less fortunate in our community," said **Kevin Greenlief**, DTA director. "It's nice to show our pride in being Fairfax County employees." Thanks to the department's generosity and support, the 2005 DTA Public Service Recognition Week Food Drive was a great success. ■

Rev. Buddy (left) representing FISH receives a check for \$100 from Carol King, DTA, while other members of DTA surround the food drive results.



Jim Riddle – School buses are his business

“There’s not a lot I don’t know about keeping school buses running,” said **Jim Riddle**, automotive technician at the Newington Maintenance Facility where the mission there includes school bus maintenance.



Jim Riddle

Riddle has kept county vehicles running smoothly for more than 18 years

and all of that time spent at the Newington facility.

Originally from the southern part of Virginia, Riddle, his wife and 15-year old son have been long-time residents of Fairfax County.

Riddle’s other expertise – and true love – is fishing and boating. He and his family have a weekend get-away place at Lake Anna about 75 miles south of the county. “We’re down at Lake Anna just about every weekend,” said Riddle. “My son and I do a lot of fishing together,” adding that they have some secret fishing holes that produce pretty good results. Indicating they most often release the fish they catch, he said, “Lake Anna is a beautiful place and we just enjoy being outside on the water.” ■

“Connect with the County Exec” to air on May 31

County Executive **Tony Griffin**, along with Director of the Department of Information Technology **Wanda Gibson** and Information Technology Security Officer **Michael Dent**, will be featured on the “Connect with the County Exec” program on information technology security. The live televised interactive staff meeting hosted by **Merni Fitzgerald**, director of the Office of Public Affairs, will be broadcast live on the Fairfax County Training Network on Tuesday, May 31, at 2:30 p.m.

Employees can watch the television program on FCTN and call in questions for the county executive and panel members during the program by dialing 703-818-1445, TTY 711, or send e-mail questions to wwwcpd@fairfaxcounty.gov. Room 259C in the Government Center and Room 219 at the

South County Center have been reserved for employees to watch the program.

To view FCTN on Cox Communications, turn on the converter box and tune to channel 40. Tune the TV to Channel 3. For Comcast Communications (Reston only) customers, tune the TV set from channel 3 to channel 11. To return to regular cable, tune the TV back to channel 3. If you have difficulty tuning in FCTN or receiving the signal, please contact the Department of Cable Communications and Consumer Protection, 703-324-5902, TTY 711.

The program will be rebroadcast on FCTN on Mondays at 11 a.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 a.m., Wednesdays at 1 p.m., and Fridays at 2 p.m. For additional information about the program, call the Office of Public Affairs at 703-324-3187, TTY 703-324-2935. ■

**Classified ads
are on the
Infoweb**

Briefs

Kings Dominion tickets

If it's the beginning of summer, it must be time for King's Dominion discount tickets. From now until June 13, you can get the early bird special and save \$19 off the regular \$45.99 general admission ticket. After that date, you can still save \$14 off the general admission ticket. And the tickets are good for any regular park operating day in 2005.

Order your tickets online by following these steps:

- ♦ go to www.KingsDominion.com
- ♦ click on Tickets, then on Corporate Partner
- ♦ your company ID through June 13 is EPGAD
- ♦ after June 13, company ID is GADNOVA.

You can print your tickets off the Web or have them mailed to you for a \$5 service charge.

Now, go and enjoy!

Sneak some fun during Sneak Peek

Sneak Peek is traditionally the time that county employees can "pre-view" the fun machines at *Celebrate*

Fairfax! from noon until 2 p.m. on Friday, June 10, employees can check out the midway rides and games and other things that may be set up – all for free.

If you are not into rides and games, then come out to watch the hot team competition headed by members of the Board of Supervisors with pre-registered employee team members.

This is always a great time to enjoy fun and friendship, and to get ready for one of the best festivals in the nation – our own *Celebrate Fairfax!*

***Celebrate Fairfax!* tickets now on sale**

Special family discount packages for the June 10-12 *Celebrate Fairfax!* festival are available online and at all Fairfax County Multiplex Cinemas, including the Cinema Delux at Fairfax Corner, and at all Northern Virginia Silver Diner locations through June 5. Advance festival ticket packages offer 25 percent or more in savings on admission, carnival tickets, merchandise purchases and festival site parking. For

Briefs

more information on the tickets, contact **Tiffany Nice** at 703-324-5564, TTY 711. Don't miss the variety of entertainment at the festival, including Rick Springfield, Better Than Ezra, The Smithereens, Blue Oyster Cult, Koko Taylor, and the Honky Tonk Tailgate Party, featuring Daryle Singletary, Rhett Akins, David Kersh and Chad Brock. For more information on the fair or special ADA accommodations, please contact *Celebrate Fairfax!* at 703-324-3247, TTY 711.

Responsible Fatherhood Week

June 13 – 20 is designated Responsible Fatherhood Week. This isn't the only time fathers should be with their children but it is a time that emphasizes the importance of a father in a child's life. On Saturday, June 18, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., dads and their kids can participate in games, outdoor activities, crafts and enjoy good food at the Mott Community Center, 12111 Braddock Road, 703-278-8605, TTY 711. Call 703-246-3139, TTY 711, for more information or to arrange transportation to and from the event. ■



Valerie Bey (l), Cable Communion, and Olive Rosen (r), contest judge, discuss Valerie's winning entries.

County employees display skill and creativity in 24th Courier Photo Contest

Valerie Bey was a big winner in the 24th Courier Photo Contest, receiving awards for Best in Show as well as first and second places in the People category. The awards were presented in a ceremony Friday, May 20, by County Executive **Tony Griffin** who told of his long-time interest in photography. "One of these days when I have more time, I'm going to get back into photography," he said to an audience of more than 75 photo award winners and friends.

The winning photographs and honorable mentions are shown in a May 20 special edition of *Courier* which also can be seen on the Infoweb. ■

Passwords: Part I - Protection and Characteristics

Today, passwords upon passwords seem to be required. Most Fairfax County users will have at least two passwords, PC/Network/E-mail and CICS (Mainframe) and each has its own criteria, which adds to confusion and the forgotten password.

Protecting your Passwords

To maintain a secure work environment, the following recommendations will help protect your passwords:

- ♦ Never write down or share passwords.
- ♦ Never use your network logon password for another purpose.
- ♦ Use different passwords for every different logon account. Never duplicate passwords.
- ♦ Passwords need to be changed at least every 90 days or *immediately* if you think it has been compromised.

♦ Some dialog boxes present an option to save or remember your password. Do not select that option.

PC/Network/E-mail Password Characteristics

- ♦ Use at least six characters; the more characters the better.
- ♦ Do not use your User ID or name.
- ♦ Refrain from using proper names and words that are in the dictionary.
- ♦ Each password must contain a minimum of three out of the four following conditions:

1. Uppercase: A, B, C...
2. Lowercase: a, b, c...
3. Numbers: 1, 2, 3...
4. Symbols: !, #, ?...

- ♦ Do not reuse previous passwords

CICS Characteristics

- ♦ Use at least six characters; but no more than eight.

Tech Tip #93

Department of Information Technology
Technical Infrastructure Division
Technical Support Center
Fairfax County Government Center
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035
Tel: 703-222-3535, option 1
Fax: 703-222-3396
TTY 711

- ♦ Do not use your User ID or name.
- ♦ Refrain from using proper names and words that are in the dictionary.
- ♦ Each password must contain a mixture of characters and numbers.
- ♦ Only usable symbols are @, # and \$.
- ♦ Do not reuse previous passwords.

Next Tech Tip

To assist with the previous requirements, Passwords: Part II – Strong and Memorable, will explain techniques on how to create good, strong and memorable passwords.

Link to Fairfax County's information on passwords: http://infoweb/DIT/ISO/Education/PassWd_TRIFOLD.doc. ■

Red Hatters contribute with a flash of red

The red hats were flashing at the April 25 Board of Supervisors meeting when the Red Hatters of Vienna presented the county with a check for \$25,000. The money, raised from

the sale of their very popular "calendar girl" calendar, was designated to help programs maintained by the Community Service Board. "Our chapter is so pleased to be able to aid

very needy causes such as homelessness and abused women," said **Shirley Jackson**, Queen Mother of the Vienna chapter.

The Red Hatters of America, modeled after the poem "Warning" by Jenny Joseph, are senior ladies dedicated to enjoying the best in life. ■



Red Hatters of Vienna with a "little" check for \$25,000 presented to Fairfax County.

Courier

Courier is published each payday Friday. The deadline for articles and notices is two weeks before publication.

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